SKEGNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINISTRY OF H
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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1953

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SKEGNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

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Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1953

To the Chairman and Members of the Skegness Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Nineteenth Annual Report.

Statistics.

Area (in acres)	4,411.788
Number of inhabited houses 1953	3,879
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1953	£136,056
Product of a Penny Rate	£540
Population	12,762

Extracts from Vital Statistics during the Year.

	Total	Males	Females
Births ...	260 ...	120 ...	140
Deaths ...	137 ...	64 ...	73
Birth Rate	20.36 ...	Death Rate	10.73

Number of Women dying in consequence of childbirth	from Sepsis ...	Nil
	from other causes	Nil

Deaths of infants under one year of age	4
Infant Mortality Rate	15.3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	17
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Diarrhoæ (under 2 years of age)	Nil
,, ,, Cerebro Spinal Fever	Nil
,, ,, Tuberculosis	2

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year. The figures are:—

	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Dysentery	Nil ...	Nil ...	Nil
Scarlet Fever	9 ...	2 ...	Nil
Diphtheria	Nil ...	Nil ...	Nil
Erysipelas	1 ...	Nil ...	Nil
Pneumonia	Nil ...	Nil ...	Nil
Measles	99 ...	Nil ...	Nil
Cerebro-Spinal-Fever	Nil ..	Nil ...	Nil
Malaria	Nil ...	Nil ...	Nil
Poliomyelitis	— ...	Nil ...	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	— ...	Nil ...	Nil
Whooping Cough ...	1 ...	Nil ...	Nil
Meningitis	Nil ...	Nil ...	Nil
	110 ...	2 ...	Nil

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There were no cases notified during the year.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. D. Fraser Menzies, M.B., Ch.B. (St. And.).

Sanitary Inspector: S. James, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst.P.C.

Additional Sanitary Inspector: G. W. Robinson, C.R.S.I.

CECIL AVENUE INFANT WELFARE CLINIC.

The Infant Welfare Clinic is held each Friday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Dr. Caton and two Health Visitors are in attendance to give professional advice. All other duties are carried out by the Voluntary Committee. Mothers and their babies are entered in the Attendance Register, the babies are weighed and a record is kept of their weight each week. Tea is provided during the afternoon for those who are waiting either to have baby weighed or to see Doctor. Dried Milk, Baby Foods and Cereals are sold at cost price, Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice are also dispensed. 288 Children were registered during the year.

WINTHORPE INFANT WELFARE CLINIC.

The Clinic is held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays in the month from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Health Visitor and two members of the Voluntary Committee are in attendance.

Babies are weighed and a record is kept of their progress.

Mothers are able to purchase Baby Foods and Cereals, Cod Liver Oil, Orange Juice.

Mothers do not care for Morning Clinics, especially on Fridays.

Average attendance was down to six.

Immunisation and Vaccination by Clinic Doctor each Friday.

I am indebted to Mrs. D. T. Edwards for this excellent report and for which I tender my grateful thanks. I also wish to thank the nurses and Committee of the Association for their excellent work throughout the year. Immunisation and Vaccination are also carried out by all Medical Practitioners in the town.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Arrangements are made to send infectious cases to the Isolation Hospitals at Boston, Lincoln or Grimsby.

The Regional Hospital Board has arranged for the regular attendance at Skegness and District Hospital for out-patient clinics, of a Physician, Surgeon, Orthopædic Surgeon, Gynecologist, Cadeologist, Paediatrician and Radiologist. An Opthalmologist attends at the Clinic, Cecil Avenue, on 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. There is also a department for Physiotherapy. In some cases these visits are not frequent enough, with the result that cases are sent away to other hospitals which should, and could, be treated in the local hospital.

Immunisation.

It is important that young children should be immunised and vaccinated. I am afraid many parents are becoming careless in this respect, and there is therefore a falling off in the number of children who are given the protection against disease to which they are entitled.

Venereal Diseases.

There is a local centre for the treatment of venereal diseases and sessions are held each week on Thursday evenings.

Tuberculosis.

The County Council provide for the treatment of tuberculosis. A clinic for this purpose is established at Skegness, and sessions are held each Tuesday afternoon. An arrangement, whereby cases of suspected tuberculosis can be X-Rayed at Skegness Hospital has proved most convenient and beneficial to the residents of Skegness.

GENERAL HEALTH.

There is nothing outstanding to report as the general health of the town has been most satisfactory.

DAY NURSERY.

The Nursery was open during the summer months and accommodated children from one to five years of age. The nursery is now carried on by Councillor Mrs. E. Barratt in a voluntary capacity and in her very capable hands is very successful. I think Mrs. Barratt's efforts in this direction are to be highly commended.

Scavenging.

The removal and disposal of house and trade refuse and the cleansing of earth closets, privies and cesspools in the area is carried out by the Council, and is under the direct supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Salvage work requires constant thought and attention, and excellent results were obtained during the year from this source.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action, or result of action taken in regard to these will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Schools.

The sanitary conditions and water supply at the public elementary schools are good.

The County School Medical Officer regularly inspects the Schools and the children. Any treatment required can be obtained through the medical practitioners in the town and through the various schemes provided by the Education Committee.

Shops Act.

Inspections are made from time to time and the action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

Housing.

Your Council has made extremely good progress with the building of new houses, including bungalows for aged persons. It seems, however, that the number of applicants for new houses still keeps at a high level, so creating a problem which can become permanent unless other solutions to a housing problem can be found.

District Nurses.

There is only one nurse for Skegness. This is quite inadequate, with the result that efficiency is lost and the nurse is much overworked. An additional nurse is urgently required.

Report on Housing Acts Inspections.

The number of inspections made and the action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

Water Supply.

A plentiful supply of wholesome water is obtained from the Candlesby and Welton boreholes.

On analysis this water is found to be of excellent quality and purity.

Laboratory Report No. 5703.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER REPORT.

The sample of water marked, 12, Scarbrough Avenue, Skegness, collected on 16.9.53, has been examined, and with the following results:—

Agar plate count, at 20°—22°C, for three days ...	= 1 per ml.
Agar plate count, at 37°C, for two days	= 0 per ml.
Faecal coli	not found in 100 ml.
Probable number of coliform bacilli ...	none per 100 ml.
Enterococci	not found in 100 ml.
Cl. welchii (spores)	not found in 100 ml.

This water is bright and clear and entirely free from suspended matter. The bacteriological results show that this water is highly satisfactory for drinking purposes.

(Signed) R. S. RALPH,
M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Laboratory Director.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	7	9	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	85	103	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	5	5	—	—
Total ..	6	97	117	2	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)		1	1		
Overcowding (S.2)		—	—		
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)		—	—		
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)		—	—		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)		—	—		
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient		1	1	—	
(b) Unsuitable or defective		—	—	—	
(c) Not separate for sexes		—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)		—	—		
Total ..		2	2	—	—

Meat and Food.

There is one Ministry of Food Abattoir in this Urban Area, and visits are paid by your Council's Meat Inspectors during hours of slaughter. A detailed report of the number of animals killed and the action taken with respect to the number of animals inspected and the meat condemned as unfit for human consumption, will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report. The area served by this Abattoir is the Urban Area, the Urban Area of Mablethorpe and parts of the Spilsby Rural District, the population being served approximately 50,000. Shops, stalls and other premises where food is prepared have been regularly inspected and records kept.

Milk Supply.

I consider the milk supply in this town is excellent. With the exception of approximately fifty gallons per day, all the milk sold is Heat Treated or Tuberculin Tested.

The following licences were granted during the year:—

Sterilised Milk	7
Pasteurised Milk	4
Tuberculin Tested Milk	4

Ice Cream.

Twenty-four samples of ice cream were sent to the Analyst, who reports on the samples as follows:—

Grade I — 9	...	Grade II —	10
Grade III — 2	...	Grade IV —	4

Regular visits are made to premises where ice cream is manufactured or sold by retail, and help and advice given where necessary.

Bakehouses.

There are no underground bakehouses in the area. All the bakehouses are of a good type, clean and well kept, and give little or no cause for complaint.

Sale of Food and Drugs.

This work is carried out by the County Council.

Swimming Pools.

Copy of Analysis, Skegness Bathing Pool:—

BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER REPORT.

20-6-53.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days—
37°C 0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli ... 0 per 100 ml.

Other Examinations: No Staph. aureus isolated.

Factories.

The work carried on is chiefly dressmaking and millinery, joinery, motor and cycle repairs, photography, upholstery and electrical materials.

On the whole these places are well kept. It is only on occasions that it is necessary to take any action with regard to them.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. FRASER MENZIES, M.B., Ch.B. (St. And.),
Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Administration:

Report of work done by Sanitary Inspector for the year 1953.

Total No. of New Houses Erected during the Year ...	107
(I.) By the Local Authority	74
(II.) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(III.) By other bodies or persons	33
1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—	
(I.) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	255
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	632
(2) (a) No. of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	253
2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—	
No. of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	249

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Acts, 1936 :—	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	1
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	1
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	3
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	1
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(3) No. of dwelling-houses subject to undertakings	2
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit	Nil

(e) Proceedings under Sections 25 and 26:—	
(1) No. of Clearance Orders made	Nil
(2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance thereof	Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

(a) (I) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	
(II) Number of families dwelling therein ...	
(III) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	
(c) (I) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	
(II) Number of persons concerned in such cases	
(d) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

(a) No. of applications for grants received ...	Nil
(b) No. of grants made	Nil
(c) No. of applications for grants made by Local Authority	Nil

Movable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.—

No. of site licences	16
No. of individual licences	Nil
No. inspected during year—Sites	32
Dwellings	Nil
No. of contraventions remedied	3

FOOD PREMISES.

Bakehouses—

No. in district	9
No. of inspections	40
No. of contraventions	Nil
Defects remedied	Nil

Control of Milk Supplies—

No. of distributors on register	28
No. of dairies on register	4
No. of Inspections of dairies	14
Contraventions remedied	Nil
No. of milk samples taken : Satisfactory	6
Unsatisfactory ...	Nil

Ice Cream and Meat Products—	
No. of manufacturers : (a) Ice Cream	9
(b) Meat Products ...	17
No. of premises registered for sale of Ice Cream ...	132
No. of Contraventions found	9
No. of Contraventions remedied	9
No. of samples of ice-cream taken Grade I	9
Grade II ...	10
Grade III ...	2
Grade IV ...	4
Slaughter-houses—	
No. on register	1 Ministry of Food
†No. of inspections	Daily
Contraventions of by-laws	Nil
Defects remedied	Nil
Other Food Premises—	
No. of inspections	103
No. of Contraventions found	7
No. of Contraventions remedied	7

Unsound Food.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ..	1819	495	446	6385	3010
Number inspected	1819	495	446	6385	3010
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcases condemned	11	15	20	27	82
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	150	109	9	135	233
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	8.8	24.9	6.5	2.5	10.4
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned	18	12	3	—	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	186	124	1	—	75
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	11.2	27.4	0.67	—	2.7

Other Foods Condemned

Tinned Goods	990	Lettuce	3 Cases
Sausage	345 lbs.	Prawns	26½lbs.
Pork Pies	12	Imported Liver	15 lbs.
Smoked Cod	2 St.	Fishcakes	60
Frozen Salmon	2	Coconut Marshmallows	5½lbs.
Poussins	7	Ground Rice	7 lbs.
Pork	2,121 lbs.	Frozen Egg	28 lbs.
Pig Offal	190 lbs.		

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Closets—	
No. of houses with privy vaults in district	Nil
No. of houses with pail closets in district	29
No. of pail closets repaired	4
No. of water-closets substituted for dry receptacles	Nil
No. of houses with water-closets in district ...	3,797
No. of water-closets repaired	24
Drains—	
Drains examined, tested, exposed, &c.	12
,, unstopped, repaired, &c.	49
Waste, pipes, disconnected, repaired, &c.	11
Existing soil pipes, etc., renewed or repaired ..	11
Sewers—	
New lengths of sewer laid	—
Tanks, Filter Beds, etc.—	
Alterations to sewage disposal works	—
Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works or complaints as to smells	—
Cesspools—	
Cesspools emptied, cleansed, &c.	Weekly
,, abolished	Nil

GENERAL.

Offensive Trades—	
No. of premises in district	Nil
†No. of Inspections	Nil
Contraventions of by-laws	Nil
Contraventions remedied	Nil

Knackers Yards—	
No. Licensed	Nil
No. of Inspections	Nil
Defects Remedied	Nil
Shops Act, 1950—	
Number of shops inspected	31
Contraventions remedied	4

WATER SUPPLY.

Wells—	
New sunk	Nil
Closed as polluted	Nil
Public Supply—	
*Area supplied	Practically 100 %
Percentage of houses internal supply	Practically 100 %
communal supply	Nil
Number of samples obtained for analysis :	
(a) from wells	Nil
(b) from public supply	3
Any insufficiency and where	One House in Warth Lane
Disinfection, etc.—	
Rooms disinfected :	
(a) ordinary infectious disease	7
(p) tuberculosis	5
Rooms stripped and cleansed	Nil
No. of premises disinfested	12
House Refuse—	
No. of houses using dustbins	3,826
Is refuse removed by householders or by public scavenger ?	By Council
How frequently is refuse removed from each house ?	Weekly
No. of complaints of non-removal	Practically Nil
Method of final disposal	Controlled Tip
Are existing arrangements for refuse removal satisfactory ?	Yes

Nuisances—

Total Number of Nuisances during year :	
(1) Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	54
(2) Reported to Council, Statutory notice issued	3
Statutory notice not issued	Nil

Details of Nuisances abated—

	After Informal intimation	After Statutory Notice
Smoke	2	Nil
Accumulation of refuse ...	11	1
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant waters	3	Nil
Fowls, pigs and other animals	5	Nil
Dampness	26	2
Yards repaved or repaired ...	7	—
Other nuisances	—	—

Rats and Mice Destruction—

No. of rodent operatives employed	One
No. of Premises treated :	
(a) Dwelling houses	832
(b) Other Premises	27
Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in district?	No

Supplementary remarks as to sanitary requirements of District, and extended notes from any of the foregoing entries :

Rodent Control Visits	2364
Infectious Disease Visits	12
Miscellaneous Visits—including salvage and house refuse removal and disposal	278